The 21st Convention was held August 20-23, 1945, in Grand Rapids, Michigan, under the hospitable supervision of Chapter 42.

The mass on opening day was offered by His Excellency Francis J. Hass, Bishop of Grand Rapids diocese. During the course of his sermon, Bishop Haas praised the women of the Alliance for their spiritual and material accomplishments. He referred to the conditions existing in Lithuania saying, "Your hearts are grieved by the tragic state under which its people are forced to exist. After the occupation of 1940, after which so many of its people were forced into Siberian slave labor, or forced to take refuge in other countries, your beloved homeland was compelled to become a part of the Soviet Socialist republics . . . I am positive that you, the women of the A.L.R.C. Women's Alliance, will strive with all your might to hasten the day of freedom for these unfortunates. You are waging a mighty war of the cross as the Crusaders of old. You can cry out as they did, "God so wishes it" and God willing, your battle will not be lost."

The delegates elected its presidium as follows: Chairman — Mrs. E. Paurazas (Mich.); Vice-Chairman — Mrs. V. Liutkus (Mass.); Secretary — Mrs. A. Poska (Ill.); Assistant Secretary — Mrs. A. Wackell (Mass.).

Some of the more important motions accepted at this convention were: a) beneficial changes in the payment of sick benefits, b) simplification of sick benefit forms, c) simplification of membership forms, d) enlargement of the "Moterų Dirva" by four pages for an English section, e) accelerating the publishing of a new constitution, f) organization of junior groups.

A New Supreme Board

There were a number of changes in the Supreme Board. With the absolute refusal of Supreme President, Mrs. E. Paurazas, to be renominated, elected to the post of Supreme President was Mrs. Albina Driza, a young, American-born member of Chapter 42. Other Supreme Officers to be elected were: Vice-Pres. — Miss Vera Galnaitis (Ill.); Secretary — Mrs. Albina Poska (Ill.); Treas. — Mrs. Helen Statkus (Ill.); Trustees — Mrs. Elizabeth Paurazas (Mich.) and Mrs. N. Meskunas (Conn.).

Mrs. Sophie Sakalas was reappointed Editor of "Moterų Dirva."

State Directors: Conn. — Miss J. Janusonis; Ill. — Mrs. Mary Paukstis; Mass., Maine and N.H. — Mrs. A. Wackell; Mich. — Mrs. M. Kase; N.Y. and N.J. — Mrs. S. Subatas; Ohio — Mrs. A. Stepulionis; Pa. — Miss E. Jurkevičius; Maryland — Mrs. A. Laukaitis.

Grievance Committee: Mrs. J. Salasevicius, Mrs. M. Delionis and Mrs. J. Cepulis.

Literary Committee: Miss V. Galnaitis, Mrs. P. Staupis, Mrs. D. Kamm.

Delegates to the A.L.R.C. Federation: Mrs. S. Subatas and Mrs. E. Sirvinskas.

Legal Advisor: Mr. Joseph Grish, Attorney-at-law.

The Convention decided to donate $100 to the Lithuanian Information Bureau. A committee comprised of Mrs. S. Sakalas, Mrs. D. Kamm and Mrs. H. Statkus was elected to formulate a letter, which would be sent to all the bishops, government officials, newspapers, etc., wherein the plight of Lithuania would be publicized and their aid solicited.

The convention paid special tribute to Mrs. Mary Vaiciunas, who had honorably performed her tasks as Supreme Secretary during the last 25 years.

Officially sanctioned by the Lithuanian Priests' League, Rev. Norbert Pakalnis of New York took over the helm as Supreme Spiritual Director.

American Lithuanian Congress

A splendid delegation of members was represented at the American Lithuanian Congress held in Chicago on November 29, 30 and December 1, 1945. Elected to its presidium were Mrs. E. Paurazas as vice-president and Mrs. A. Poska as secretary. Serving on the banquet committee were Mrs. S. Sakalas, Mrs. K. Sriubas, Mrs. E. Samas and Mrs. O. Aleliunas. During this congress, donations exceeding $20,000 were raised for the sole purpose of aiding the task of regaining freedom for Lithuania.

The More Important Activities of 1946

In the post-war year of 1946, with renewed hope and courage, the members thoughtfully turned to the task of strenghtening and enlarging the organization. As the campaign for new members began, the Supreme Board urged one and all within its ranks to focus their attention on the American-born of Lithuanian descent.

Althought the tyrants' domination had ceased and the flame of war was extinguished, the poor unfortunates of war-torn countries were in need of moral and material support. Through-out the nation, the women of the Alliance responded most enthusiastically, primarily interested in the welfare of displaced Lithuanians. Direly needed winter clothing was gathered through clothing drives and forwarded to the United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America for distribution. When the displaced Lithuanians were able to organize schools, Lithuanian readers and grammars were collected and dispached. In addition to all this, work for the American Red Cross was fervently continued.

The convention of the United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America (ULRFA) and the A.L.R.C. Federation held in October, 1946 in New York, found a good representation of Alliance members in its midst. Chicagoans attending were Miss Vera Galnaitis, Mrs. Albina Poska, Mrs. Josephine Dauzvardis; from Detroit — Mrs. Elizabeth Paurazas and Mrs. Marie Kase, as well as many others from the Eastern coast, many of whom were elected to important offices.

Acknowledging her unwavering devotion to the organization during her 25 years of membership, Supreme Treasurer, Mrs. Helen Statkus, was honored at a surprise party, which brought her a mound of greetings and gifts.

In December, 1946 prominantly displayed among the Christmas trees of many nations in the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago, Ill., was the Lithuanian tree. Chairman of this project was Mrs. Josephine Dauzvardis. Assisting her was Mrs. Rose Mazeliauskas of Chapter 49, who spent untold hours in a labor of love — sewing soda straws together in various sizes and shapes to represent as nearly as possible, the straw